



Iowa Smart Planning Task Force Meeting
November 10, 2010
Location: Iowa Dept. for the Blind
Draft Meeting Notes

Attendees (*indicates telephonic participation)

Task Force Members:

Les Beck, Iowa State Association of Counties; LaDene Bowen, University of Northern Iowa; Charles Connerly, University of Iowa*; Bill Ehm, Department of Natural Resources; Bruce Greiner, Office of Energy Independence; Heather Hackbarth, Department of Management; Rick Hunsaker, Iowa Association of Regional Councils*; Jessica Hyland Harder, Iowa League of Cities; State Senator, Pam Jochum (D); Chad Kuene, North Liberty; Paula Mohr, Department of Cultural Affairs; Joe Mowers, Iowa Workforce Development; Pam Myhre, Mason City; Wayne Petersen, Dept. of Agriculture & Land Stewardship; Nancy Richardson, Department of Transportation; Emily Shields, Rebuild Iowa Office; Gary Taylor, Iowa State University; Donald Temeyer; Ljerka Vasiljevic (for Stuart Crine), Department of Public Safety; Black Hawk County; David Wilwerding, American Planning Association

Other Attendees:

Greg Beck, City of Bettendorf; John Soenksen, City of Bettendorf; Bill Connors, City of Bettendorf; Sue Lerdal, Legislative Services Agency; Jane Clark, Sierra Club; Mike Ludwig, City of Des Moines; Jace Mikels, Senate Democrats; Theresa Kehoe, Senate Democrats; Bill Freeland, House Democrats; Mary Beth Mellick, Iowa State Association of Counties; Bob Mulqueen, Department of Economic Development; LaVon Griffieon, 1000 Friends of Iowa; Rick Robinson, Farm Bureau; Tony Philips, House Republicans; Jonathan Rosenbloom, Drake Law School; Tom Cope, Iowa Association of Regional Councils

Supporting Staff:

Nichole Warren, IARC; Aaron Todd, RIO; Annette Mansheim, RIO; Jenna Anderson, RIO; Susan Judkins Jostens, RIO; Liz Van Zomeren, RIO

Welcome

Nancy Richardson, Co-Chair, welcomed all in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from Oct. 20, 2010: Motion and seconded to approve. Motion carried.

Public Comment

- Brent Nelson, City of Sioux City -- Referenced two letters submitted with concerns about process and some of the recommendations. Three main issues: (1) reference to "meaningful application" of the principles should be removed, (2) want only Iowa residents on Regional Plan Review Committee, and (3) the process did not allow for much input from western Iowa and ask that the process slow down or at least acknowledge that there was a problem.
- Bob Welsch from Iowa City suggested several word changes to section subtitled, "*Location of the OPGIS and OPGIS Coordinating Council*"
 - Change "suggest" to "recommends" in the statement "...the Task Force suggests the following options."

- Change the word “could” to “would” in the first sentence of both paragraphs numbered 1 and 2 so it reads, “... Coordinating Council would be...”
- Change the sentence, “Alternatively, the planning and GIS...” to, “As an alternative, although less desirable, the planning and GIS...”
- There was a question about Regional Planning Framework section suggesting that COGs are responsible for regional planning when there is no COG established in central Iowa. It was suggested that a statement referring the reader to Recommendation 2.5 for additional information.

Review and Approval of Draft Report

Richardson stated that task force members were asked to submit their prioritized list of recommendations and results received were varied so there was no clear direction from the exercise. As a result, both chairs meeting with Aaron Todd agreed to develop a timeline rather than develop a prioritized list of the recommendations. The timeline allows the group to agree on what issues to focus on first and those that could come later. The timeline will be discussed later in the meeting to make sure this is the right timeline.

Aaron stated that the document handed out today is only slightly different than the version distributed earlier in the week. No substantive changes. Formatting changes, however, resulted in some text being on different page numbers.

Richardson stated that legislative language directs us to have the report completed by the 15th so there is not much time to finalize. Will discuss each section of the report for revisions.

Acknowledgements: Suggest that co-chairs acknowledge the task force members and remove the chair’s names from of the acknowledgement section.

Executive summary: will talk about changes to this section after the rest of the document is reviewed.

Legislative Background:

- Change first paragraph under “Public Input Process,” “...and further input is welcome” to a more proactive statement indicating that the task force will continue to seek public input from all areas of the state. It was also suggested that it be acknowledged that some areas did not feel they were adequately included in the input process and that requests by the legislature in the future provide sufficient time for public input. However, it was expressed that the taskforce, working within a short timeframe allotted, did attempted to get as much input as possible.
- Include a bullet that not only did the notice go out by the taskforce but members were also asked to further distribute.

Policy recommendations:

Recommendation 1.1

- Aaron reviewed a letter received from Brad Cutler, Chair of the Iowa Geographic Information Council stating their willingness to assume the GIS Technical Advisory Committee role if requested.
- Concern expressed about the suggested membership of the OPGIS Coordinating Council does not include energy or utility representation while a means to help fund planning is through an energy tax.
 - After much discussion it was decided to add a statement that the Governor’s appointments should take into consideration representation of entities that could be affected by funding stream such as energy and the private development sector.

- In section subtitled, “*Location of the OPGIS and OPGIS Coordinating Council*” it was decided to:
 - Change “suggest” to “recommends” in the statement “...the Task Force suggests the following options:”
 - In change the word “could” to “would” in the first sentence of both paragraphs number 1 and 2 so it reads, “... Coordinating Council would be...”
 - Eliminate “1.” “Or” and “2.” rewording using “a second option” and “ a “third alternative” at the beginning of the last sentence that begins with, “Alternatively,”.

Regional Planning Framework

Recommendation 2.1

- Include reference to the central Iowa COG issue by including “for further clarification see (section 2.5)
- Change COGs are “the primary group” rather than “the group”.
- Roles and responsibilities of the COGs needs clarification

Recommendation 2.2

- Include language that states local plans should have an impact on what is in a regional plan as well as the regional plan being guidance for local plan – it is a two way street.

Recommendation 2.4

- After much discussion it was decided to require that membership on PRC be limited to Iowans.

Financial Incentives & Technical Assistance

Recommendation 3.2

- After much discussion it was decision to include a bullet point with a general statement like “consider a variety of taxes and fees” and remove bullets 4,5 & 7

Watershed Planning & Implementation

Bill Ehm presented a handout with information about the Community Rating System (CRS) with a suggestion to add as another incentive from the state to reduce flood risk

- Decision to include first sentence in paragraph four of the handout in Recommendation 3.3 as an action step under incentives.

Vote to accept report with modifications:

Richardson called for a vote by show of hand to accept the report with discussed modifications through Section 3. Vote carried with unanimous support.

Timeline:

Richardson asked if there was general comfort to show prioritization via a timeline and there was consensus for the timeline presentation.

Comments:

- Include only recommendations in the timeline and remove action steps
- Changes to Year One
 - Eliminate “Establish the Watershed Advocate” action step
 - Add Recommendation 4.1 about Watershed Planning
 - Move Recommendation 1.4, “Provide training and technical assistance...” to Yr.2
 - Move Recommendation 1.5, “Identify “State of Iowa Smart Planning Goals...” to Yr. 2
 - Add Recommendation 2.4, “COGs should establish Planning Review Committee”
 - Add Recommendation 3.2, “Expand the menu of financing...”
- Changes to Year Two

- Add Recommendation 1.4, “Provide training and technical assistance...”
 - Add Recommendation 1.5, “Identify “State of Iowa Smart Planning Goals...”
 - Eliminate “Enhance watershed planning...” action step
- Changes to Year Three
 - Eliminate “Planning Review Committee ...” action step
- Changes to Year Four
 - Move Recommendation 3.2, “Expand the menu of financing...” to Yr. 1
- Changes to Year Five
 - None
- Present as a Gantt Chart in final report

Richardson called for a vote by show of hands to support as timeline as modified. Vote carried with unanimous support.

Advocacy and next steps

Final report will go to the governor but also need to inform governor elect. Would expect RIO to have time with transition team to showcase as a hot item and provide a brief. In addition, taskforce chairs will try to meet with transition team to advocate.

- Point out how this was done with minimal amount of funds. Literally no funds. And in 4 or 5.5 months time.
- Support by all the organizations on the taskforce was requested to help support the legislation when it gets to that point.

Nancy thanked Aaron Todd and Nichole Warren for their work.

Meeting concluded.

Notes submitted by Annette Mansheim, RIO